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## COVID-19 testing crucial in months to come

JENN WATT

Editor

All seven of those who were confirmed to have had the coronavirus in Haliburton County are no longer infected with the virus, news that led to celebratory posts on social media over the weekend and affirms the importance of physical distancing and hand hygiene to help keep numbers of confirmed cases low.

Dr. Norm Bottum of the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team said it's important that people continue to observe public health protocols and not become complacent about the virus.

"Everything's great and everything's isolated now [in Haliburton County], but as we start to open up our economy, Haliburton being a tourist destination, we're going to have cases coming and going," Bottum said.

It will be important that people not dismiss their symptoms, assuming it is a cold or flu, and make an appointment to be tested.

see ASSESSMENT page 2



### I spy

SBES students Levi and Travis Rowe play the math game "I Spy" in a photo sent to their teacher Mrs. Bain during the school's Learn@Home program. See more photos on page 10. /Submitted

## Council talks COVID-19 communications

CHAD INGRAM

Staff Reporter

Haliburton County councillors discussed what kinds of communications should be issued by the upper-tier of the

county in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic during an April 22 meeting.

It had been more than a month since county councillors convened after regular meetings were suspended amid the pandemic. Councillors took part in Wednesday's meeting remotely using the digital teleconferencing platform Zoom, with the

meeting broadcast on the county's YouTube channel.

It had been the suggestion of Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt that some kind of joint statement regarding the COVID-19 crisis be issued by the

see MAYORS page 2



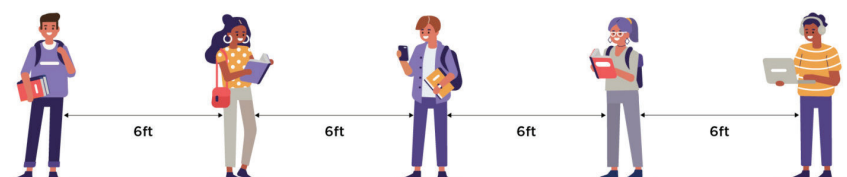
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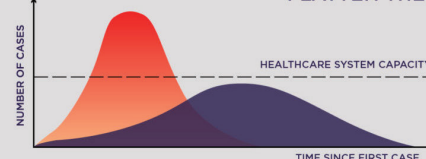
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# COVID-19

## Coronavirus

# County's mayors plan joint message

from page 1

four townships. County council is comprised of the mayors and deputy mayors of each of the four municipalities.

"Given how things are changing every day, it's just hard to say exactly what that statement might be right now," said Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor and County Warden Liz Danielsen. "... But I still think it's a good idea to think about putting forward a message from us all, done in way that the public can see us all, and hear a consistent message from us."

The county's townships have been issuing press releases and other messaging regarding closures, cancellations, tax deadline extensions and other changes resulting from the coronavirus outbreak. There's been some criticism in the community that the townships don't appear to be working together enough.

"The nature of our individual municipalities calls for us to do different things, but I think there's some thinking that we're not working together, and I'd like to dispel that," Danielsen said, adding there are ongoing discussions not just between politicians, but also township staff.

"I've asked twice for the mayors to be able to do something together," said Moffatt. "In this situation, we do have individual needs in our communities, but we are working together, but there are some challenges."

Moffatt said she'd suggested the concept of a joint statement via online conferencing platform Zoom, whereby the public could see and hear the mayors. Like Danielsen, Moffatt said the four townships are working more closely together than she believes many residents realize.

"There's a little bit of silo going on, but there's far less silo going on than the general public believes," Moffatt said. "... There is definitely the perception of a fragmented approach, and I think we can do, quite easily, a good job of fixing that."

Moffatt also said that when the pandemic is over and things are back to normal or "new normal," she'd like to see a fulsome review of countywide communications during the crisis, "and how we can do a different job going forward of big events or incidents, should they happen again, hopefully they don't."

Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts said she thought the county and its lower-tiers were doing a fine job when it came to communications during the crisis.

"I think all the lower-tier townships and the county have been doing an excellent job of communicating out how COVID has affected us in our normal services," Roberts said. "... I also know that our CAOs [chief administrative officers] have been talking on a regular basis to make sure they're in touch, and I actually think we've been doing a very good job. I think we have to make sure we don't overstep our responsibilities, and we know what municipal services that we're responsible for, and not wade in on the things that we're not responsible for."

Minden Hills Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell said she supported the idea of some kind of joint video statement

from the mayors.

"I agree that I think something should go out sooner than later from all of the mayors," Schell said. "I like the idea of a Zoom meeting. I'm getting a lot of feedback from people saying they're not hearing enough. Again, you can put stuff out there, but you can't make people read it, correct? But perhaps some kind of video, I think maybe people would be more engaged with something like that. I don't see the harm in it."

Highlands East Mayor Dave Burton said he was supportive of some kind of joint message, but wondered if a Zoom message might end up constituting a formal meeting under the Municipal Act.

"I'm not sure ... there was some concern that it may constitute a meeting," Burton said.

"If there's no decisions being made specifically, you're just agreeing on a joint statement, I don't believe that you've got an issue like that," Danielsen said.

"I think that's something that we can work on," Danielsen said of the joint statement concept. "I still think that we need to do a more streamlined communications, or we need to have a better communications plan going forward overall when we're in circumstances like this."

"So what are we missing?" said Roberts. "What message isn't getting out there?"

Danielsen said she could think of two examples where there had been a lot of outcry from the public, both negative and positive.

"One was specific to the issue of people demanding that we tell people, don't come to the county, and I think we could have done a better job of messaging with that," Danielsen said. "I've never been prepared to say, don't

come to the county, personally. Rather, I would like to say that people need to think very carefully before they do that, and there are certain things they need to think about if they are going to come here."

Danielsen noted the issue of boat launches and whether or not they are to be closed has also been somewhat convoluted.

"There have been an awful lot of grey areas in some of the orders that have come down [from the province]," she said, "and we're all trying to weed our way through exactly what's intended."

Moffatt said that while meetings between staff members, emergency operations groups and so forth are ongoing, she still felt the mayors needed to communicate more directly with residents.

"We are the faces and the voices of our community," she said. "The community is frightened, the community is nervous, the community is confused, and I think that we need to be out there as a group to say that we are working hard, that we support the community."

"It's just letting people know that we are aligned, we are informed, we are paying attention and that we care, we are knowledgeable and that we're providing leadership to the community," Moffatt said. "I think that's what people are looking for, from all of us, as a front."

Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin said he agreed with the video concept and would be happy to see that go forward.

Danielsen suggested a draft of a statement be sent to council members, and that the logistics of the execution could be figured out after that.

## Assessment centre continues to test those with symptoms

from page 1

Though there may be people with COVID-19 in the community who haven't been diagnosed with the virus, as of Monday there were no new cases in the county reported by the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit.

"Our assessment centre is still running. We're still seeing patients regularly, people coming in with symptoms. The swabs are coming back negative," Bottum said.

Positive COVID-19 case numbers are listed under the health unit of the infected person's primary residence, which has led to speculation in Haliburton County that there may be people testing positive for the virus and living at their secondary residence, without their numbers being registered with the HKPR District Health Unit.

"There may be people who have active cases who are isolating at their cottages we don't know about because they get screened in Toronto and are told to isolate, and they [could say] 'well I'm going to go to my cottage for two weeks to isolate,' so we don't know that because they don't come into our stats," he said.

Bottum said while it is possible there are currently cottagers with positive cases out there, he's not aware of them.

"Well, they might be, but they're not coming to our hospitals, they're not coming to our office, they're not

coming to our assessment centre," he said.

Overall, Bottum said Haliburton County and the rest of Ontario has been doing well in its efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19.

"Things are good. Again, this is step 1 ... mitigating the curve. All of Ontario's done a great job of mitigating the curve. We've been unfortunate with our long-term care facilities, but as far as overcrowding ICUs and overusing ventilators and exposing a lot of health-care workers to the coronavirus, it's actually been quite good compared to a lot of other areas," he said.

However, with the warmer weather coming and the prospect of more people heading north to their cottages, people will need to continue to be careful.

"We're going to have to be diligent and that's where our testing capacity is really important, so we can pick cases up early," Bottum said, "because we know people might spread the virus for a day or two before they become sick. So if you become sick on Tuesday, we're going to want to know what your movements were Sunday, Monday and perhaps notify people or put people on alert."

As of Monday, April 27, there were 156 cases of COVID-19 in the HKPR District Health Unit region, 113 cases are deemed "resolved." Thirty-two deaths have been recorded from the virus, none of those was in Haliburton County.

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# COVID-19 Coronavirus

## Organizers postpone home show to 2021

JENN WATT

Editor

Organizers of the Haliburton Home and Cottage Show investigated other venues and dates for 2020 before deciding that the show would not happen this year.

They looked at other dates at the arena or Head Lake Park, but uncertainty about when public facilities would be available again, and when physical distancing restrictions would be lifted cemented their decision.

"What it came right down to is, having reviewed all of the logistical issues, we still couldn't get around one fundamental problem and that is, given the social distancing of the pandemic, who really knows what we're going to be facing late summer?" said Kent Milford, president of the Haliburton Curling Club, which organizes the show. "We just couldn't guarantee the safety of all of the attendees and the exhibitors and the volunteers and you just couldn't put anybody's safety and health at risk, and we weren't prepared to do that."

Much work had already gone into planning this year's show, which was to have taken place on May 29 to 31 in Haliburton. Milford guessed that hundreds of hours of work had already been done



The 2020 Haliburton Home and Cottage Show is cancelled for this year. Organizers said health and safety was the most important thing. /File photo

by show managers Glenn Scott and Dave Taylor. Spots for vendors were already sold out with a waiting list, which is not unheard of, but rare for the 43-year-old event.

"Oftentimes by the time we get to the end of April, beginning of May, we're getting close to being sold out, but we were sold out with a waiting list four weeks ago. We were way ahead of the game," he said.

The show typically attracts about 2,500 attendees to visit 130 vendors and

involves the assistance of 150 volunteers. It's also an economic driver for the community and a beloved annual event for full- and part-time residents.

Because it is such an important community event, Milford said it was especially difficult to concede that the 2020 show would not happen.

"We feel badly in terms of our role in the community. We viewed this show as very important in the community. It's not about making money for the curling club, it's about making sure we do our

bit in helping everybody in Haliburton who's helped us in so many ways over the years," he said.

Milford didn't give a specific figure for how much money the show typically raises for the curling club, but said members are usually told that without the revenue generated, "dues would probably be \$100 to \$125 higher to curl."

The curling club board hasn't met yet to discuss the effect of cancelling the show this year, but Milford said they are in a good financial position and anticipates there will be minimal impact on members.

As with organizations across the county, province and country, the Haliburton Curling Club leadership doesn't know what the next months will hold. Milford said if physical distancing recommendations are still in place this fall, there may be no curling at all.

"If it's not safe to have 75 or 80 people in a building or even more than 100, then obviously we're going to have to change things around. It's not beyond the realm of possibility to say there'd be no curling next year."

As for the Home and Cottage Show, organizers are promising to "be back next year better than ever."

Go to [haliburtonhomeandcottageshow.com](http://haliburtonhomeandcottageshow.com) to find information about the vendors of the show and their contact information.

## Schools adapting as closure extended

JENN WATT

Editor

School staff have been adapting quickly to changes to the education system, and continue to work through challenges distance learning presents, a spokesperson for Trillium Lakelands District School Board said.

On Sunday, the provincial government extended the closure of publicly funded schools to May 31 in order to protect the safety of students and staff, which means the ongoing home learning efforts will need to continue for at least another month.

"From a staff perspective we believe things are going well," said Catherine Shedden, communications manager for TLDSB. "Support from our technology services department has been ongoing and ranges from repairs to devices to training in online programs. This is new territory for many teachers, and indeed for the system as a whole. New challenges are met with concentrated discussion and problem-solving."

A survey was sent out to parents last week to gather their perspective with results to be shared by the board this week.

"There are multiple encouraging stories being shared over social media by schools and educators across the board. This week we hope to begin a video series of helpful mental health and well-being tips for parents," she said.

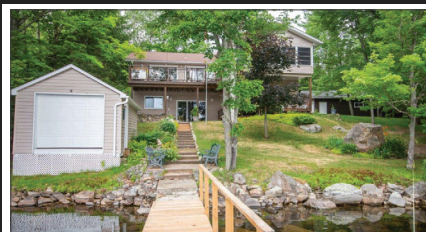
Distributing technology to students who don't have access has been one of the ways the board is assisting families through the Learn@Home program. Although earlier this month the provincial government announced a partnership with Apple and Rogers that would provide iPads to students without access, Shedden said it primarily benefited boards closer to the GTA.

"For TLDSB we have worked to ensure that devices are available to those prioritized to receive them – in particular students with special needs, students from grades 7 to 10 using the digital backpack Edwin program, students in grades 11 and 12, and students enrolled in ongoing dual credit programs," she said. "We have also emphasized with teaching staff that home learning is not necessarily an online learning program. There are other ways to deliver instruction for in-home learning. We are beginning a process this Tuesday of weekly delivery of printed materials to homes where internet access is not possible."

More than 300 homes within the wider school board region do not have internet access and are having printed materials delivered.

"Since the last provincial extension [of the school closure] we have deployed almost all of our support staff to assist in the delivery of learning to students at home – this includes our secretaries, clerks, educational [assistants], and now with the delivery of paper materials, our maintenance staff," Shedden said.

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# Streaming council meetings broadens access

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

In a photo she posted online, Minden Hills Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell shows how she attended a county council meeting participating in a way she hasn't before: feet up on a reclining chair in her living room with her dog Gucci curled up beside her.

Schell has been attending virtual meetings since the middle of March, when physical distancing practices came into effect in order to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus, but the April 22 meeting of county council was the first public council meeting Schell took part in that was broadcast online to the general public.

Next week for a closed council session, Schell plans to move to her bedroom and shut the door.

The county council meeting was the second council meeting in the county – Highlands East broadcast a teleconference online on April 21 – to take place with councillors participating remotely using the digital teleconferencing platform Zoom, broadcasting to municipal YouTube channels. Bill 187, the Municipal Emergency Measures Act 2020 permits an electronic meeting in a declared emergency, which the province announced on March 19.

It's a new way of working for council members and municipal staff, as they adapt to continue working from home or while respecting physical distancing measures recommended by public health agencies.

"Holding virtual council meetings has been a new experience for all of us in the county," said County Warden and Deputy Mayor of Algonquin Highlands Liz Danielsen. "But during a state of emergency, it has proved to be a saving grace, as it allows us to conduct business almost, and I stress almost, as usual. Having said that, nothing during this crisis has been business as usual. However, the virtual meeting experience was a good one, and proceeded without incident."

Municipal clerks and county staff have worked – and continue to do so – to develop a plan to move council meetings online, according to Mike March, the County of Haliburton's director of IT. Each of the municipalities are using the same conferencing technology, and underwent training to use it correctly prior to meetings being held. March, as well as county CAO Mike Rutter and some of the councillors who took part in last week's first online meetings, noted apprehension regarding broadcasting live, which can pose challenges due to technology, distractions in the home environment as well as the differences in communicating in-person compared to onscreen.

"While there are plenty of well-tested options for conducting online meetings, the group had to ensure that our council meeting processes could be adapted to work in this new virtual reality," said March. "Simple things like asking questions, voting, and ensuring quorum, become more complex when we have some councillors attending by video and others by phone. Fortunately, municipalities all across Ontario have been very forthcoming and helpful when sharing their online experiences so we have been able to learn what works and what does not before we conducted our first council meeting. Best practices guides for conducting virtual meetings (such as making sure you are located away from barking dogs and boisterous children) were shared with us by other municipalities, which was very helpful when trying to plan for the best public viewing and listening experience that we could achieve."

Licensing required to host council meetings through Zoom costs less than \$100 per month, according to March. Cameras and microphones built into laptops and mobile devices have resulted in low expenditure for equipment while being able to stream meetings to YouTube has resulted in no additional costs to make the meetings widely available, and for a short time after the meeting is held.

"Each municipality will be making the decision independently as to whether or not to keep the streams accessible after the meeting ends," said March, noting that both last week's county council meeting and Highlands East council meeting were removed after being made available for about 24 hours after the live broadcast.

"The county's IT department has been a godsend to both the county, and its member municipalities during this pandemic, setting up all of the municipalities in a way that allows many employees to work from home," said Danielsen. "In addition, the techs have spent hours investigating the best online programs to use for virtual meetings and has offered training on best practices."

Residents – some who had never attended an in-



Minden Hills Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell attends a county council meeting from the comfort of her home, feet up, dog at her side. The move to online meetings has been a successful one for local councils. /Photo courtesy of Lisa Schell

son meeting before – offered positive feedback about the experience to councillors.

"I was pretty excited to be able to hear some of the items being discussed, and how they agree," said Minden Hills resident Sharon Foster. "I think all meetings should be streamed in the interest of communication."

"The interesting thing is that more folks tuned in to watch the meeting online than we ever actually have in the audience, which was a good sign," said Danielsen. "It is also something that we will have to consider as we go forward and resume regular meetings. Do we invest in the proper programs and equipment to offer this on a permanent basis or do we return to standard meetings. In efforts of openness and transparency this is something that will require serious consideration, despite those who might be a bit camera shy. We still have to consider meetings where contentious issues are being discussed

and a large number of folks are in attendance to stand in support or opposition of the matter under consideration. If we decide to continue with a streamed version it will allow folks to attend without having to drive any distance, or even leave the comfort of their couch."

Information regarding future online council meetings can be obtained at <http://www.haliburton.civicweb.net> or through individual websites of each of the municipalities.

Algonquin Highlands : [algonquinhighlands.ca](http://algonquinhighlands.ca)  
County of Haliburton : [haliburtoncounty.ca](http://haliburtoncounty.ca)  
Dysart et al : [dysartet.al.ca](http://dysartet.al.ca)  
Highlands East : [highlandseast.ca](http://highlandseast.ca)  
Minden Hills : [mindenhills.ca](http://mindenhills.ca)

## OSSTF and government reach deal

CHAD INGRAM

Staff Reporter

The Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, along with the Ontario Public School Boards Association, OSSTF Education Workers and Council of Trustees' Associations, has reached a tentative three-year deal with the provincial government.

Teachers have been working without a contract since last summer, and while OSSTF job action, including rotating one-day strikes, had been ramping up throughout the winter, the COVID-19 crisis has meant that all publicly funded schools have been closed since the March break, the school year recently resuming with an online curriculum. The Ford government has said schools will remain closed until at least May 31, and it's unclear whether they will reopen before the end of the school year.

Previously, the government had backed down on plans to increase class sizes and some requirements for minimum amounts of e-learning, and while the details of the tentative agreement are to remain confidential until the deal is ratified, major media outlets are reporting the union agreed to the government's offer of a one per cent salary increase for each of the three years of the deal.

"Our priority has always been to reach good deals with teachers' and education workers' unions, that advance the priorities of students and parents," Education Minister Stephen Lecce said in a statement on April 20. "That is exactly what we have done by reaching deals

with every education union in this province. During this entire process, our aim was to ensure our young people receive the best education we can offer, so they can develop the skills they need to succeed in the classroom and in the jobs of the future."

OSSTF president Harvey Bischof acknowledged the ongoing COVID-19 crisis had contributed to the negotiations getting wrapped up. "These are extraordinary times," Bischof said in a press release. "When we began negotiations nearly a year ago, no one could have anticipated the situation we face today."

"While this tentative agreement does not satisfy all of our concerns, we recognize the current environment we are in and the need for students to have stability once this emergency is over," Bischof continued.

A statement from the OPSBA also acknowledged the role the COVID-19 crisis had played in negotiations.

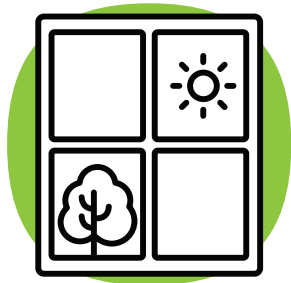
"Despite the many operational challenges the COVID-19 pandemic has brought to the collective bargaining process, all of the parties continued to work towards reaching a deal that will help bring stability to our system during what is obviously a rapidly evolving situation," said OPSBA president Cathy Abraham in a press release. "Our secondary teachers and education workers will play a very important role in guiding our students through the challenging time ahead. This agreement is a recognition that we value the contribution they make to the educational experience of our students every day. We look forward to working together to ensure that we are able to provide an educational experience that is focused on the success and well-being of our students."



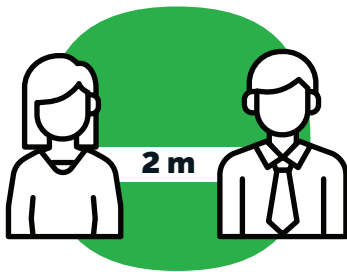
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# points of view



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## Viewers from home

**A**LTHOUGH CHANGE can be difficult, humans have a remarkable ability to adapt. During the COVID-19 crisis, we've all seen numerous examples of local individuals, agencies, services and businesses adapting, whether by offering curbside pickup or delivery, online offerings or pivoting in some way to help the efforts of our front line health-care workers. Our municipal government, as well, is adapting to continue to offer what County Warden Liz Danielsen described as "business, almost, and I stress almost, as usual," noting that "nothing during this crisis has been business as usual."

One adaptation outside of the norm that has occurred as a direct result of physical distance measures recommended by public health agencies during the pandemic is the move to broadcast council meetings online. Last week, with councillors connecting remotely, council meetings in Highlands East and at the county level were live-streamed using Zoom online conferencing technology and YouTube, at very little financial cost, and with a greater number of people viewing than at in-person meetings. The meetings – able to happen with councillors apart due to emergency measures – allow for municipal governments around the province to broadcast discussions, votes and decisions online to constituents, regardless of where those residents might be.

Some jurisdictions throughout Ontario have broadcast regular council meetings – either on TV or by webcast – for years, including neighbouring councils in the City of Peterborough, District of Muskoka and

City of Kawartha Lakes, where in Lindsay, volunteers are offered training and high school volunteer hours to operate audio and visual recording equipment.

An option for online council meetings is a change for Haliburton County residents that isn't business as usual, but rather much, much better than usual in offering transparency and accessibility. Though the meetings are being offered online temporarily for now, connecting councillors while apart, the necessity to do so shows all of us tuning in that it can be done at any time.



sue  
tiffin

## Editorial

It means residents can take in council meetings despite snowstorms, lack of transportation, accessibility barriers, social anxiety or conflicting schedules – council meetings in Haliburton County all happen during regular working hours for many, and can last for hours making it difficult for residents to pop in on their lunch breaks hoping to bear witness to a particular agenda item. Sharing council meetings online regularly would allow residents at our long-term care homes to remain further involved in the community outside the doors, and seasonal residents hours or even countries away the chance to listen in to meetings. Constituents can submit questions in advance, and watch meetings after they've been broadcast, offering flexibility for a wide variety of schedules and situations.

In the coming weeks and months, as the province looks to potentially open up and as better internet access is gained in our area, council should move toward formally opening up regular meetings to a greater audience. Our normal could be better.



Pine Lake awaits

by Darren Lum

## Mud not bugs

**M**ARK WATCHED THE drama unfold. Now that it was late April and the sun had real strength, the competition for its favour was unfolding in Mark's home. Throughout the house were pockets of sunshine, spilling over the furniture and pooling onto the floor. As the sun moved across the sky, different spots in the house became little gifts of light and warmth.

George the cat and Mabel the dog both wanted to be in those sunny gifts. However only one could lay claim at a time. The chair in front of the window was the current spot but in time that would change to a splash on the floor. Later the kitchen mat would almost pulse with heat. And by mid-afternoon the porch door could be open, the sun washing across its wooden boards and making the welcome mat very welcoming indeed.

Mabel stood beside the window chair and stared at George. But the attempt at intimidation didn't work and George ignored the request to move. There was no way he was giving up the chair. He knew the minute he hopped down for a drink of water, Mabel would replace him.

This rivalry would continue until late spring and when summer arrived there would be no need to compete for sunbathing. By then George was free to spend time inside or out as he chose, stretching long and flat on the backyard deck, watching the bird feeders. Mabel could rest on her side, also on the spacious deck, her small chest rising and falling in the blessed sun and maybe even some panting taking place as well. But they weren't there yet so the vying for a sunny repose continued.

Mark had mixed feelings about this time of year. He also enjoyed the sun's rays but wanted to take in his share out-of-doors. It was still early for gardening but he could walk to his heart's content. The problem was mud. Mud on the road that ran past his little house. Mud in the backyard, especially the soon-to-be vegetable garden. Mud by the river that gurgled and shone, inviting a closer look only to suck the rubber boots right off

Mark's feet.

The pond down by the orchard was brimming with spring run-off. The red-winged blackbirds had returned, balancing like dancers on the fuzzy willow branches as they called to each other. Mark wished the pond would stay all summer. But for now he could enjoy it, treading on the long dead grass that lay like lumpy sheets around its edges. He stood on a rock and looked at the rippling water, caught by a slight breeze. Looking closer he saw tiny little wiggles below the surface. Mark didn't know if

they would mature into blackflies or mosquitoes but he knew they weren't going to be flowers.

Spring brought the emergence of new life along with the mud. Mark remembered the days he was a city dweller and how different the spring experience had been there. No mud because pavement was everywhere. No river or pond, just the occasional puddle, muddy and thin. A weed might struggle through a sidewalk crack and buds form on anemic-looking saplings but nothing like

here and now.

The flower beds were starting to show nubs of green through last fall's leaves. An orchestra of birds greeted him on his early morning walks. And the deer, looking shaggy as they lost their winter coats, ambled about selecting the first bits of greenery to enjoy.

Now George just hopped off the sunny chair and headed for his water dish in the kitchen. Before he had even reached it, Mabel had taken his place. But soon she'd have to move again because the sun had shifted and so only part of the chair was now in sunshine. George, feigning indifference to Mabel's sunny theft, curled up on the footstool by the wood stove. It was still burning, warding off the early morning chill that even the spring sunshine could not yet disperse.

Mark knew that would soon change. It was a time of change. From indoors to out. From stove heat to sun. From mud to bugs. It was called the life cycle and there was no getting away from it. For plants or animals or humans.

## Down



sharon  
lynch

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# points of view

## The best kind of skunk

**M**Y FRIEND TOM is one of those two per centers you sometimes read about. You know, the ones who frequently get into awkward situations with skunks.

Just about three times a year, he tells me that he has had another encounter with a skunk. And from what I have gathered from his wife and kids, the skunk only has the advantage during the first encounter. After that, both Tom and the skunk pretty much smell the same.

Oddly enough, Tom wears his skunk encounters as a badge of honour – and not just as a cologne.

So when we were chatting on the phone this morning, I should not have been so surprised when he said, “Hey, there’s a skunk walking beside my car!”

I replied with the standard advice, “Drive faster.”

But it turned out he wasn’t driving at all. Instead, he was parked at a waste transfer station and the skunk was, apparently, a very curious resident there.

Before continuing, I should mention that Tom doesn’t just

park at waste transfer stations for the ambiance. No, he usually is at places like this to scare off gulls with a bird of prey. Tom is a life-long falconer and somehow has convinced people to pay him to do what he loves – which, given his track record is, presumably, to have run-ins with skunks.

Every now and then, however, things get a little more complicated.

Take for example, this morning’s skunk.

It was, according to Tom, a little different as skunks go. Its front leg was broken; I’d like to think in



steve  
galea

Loon Tales

a skiing accident. This is only important to the story because the skunk was not exactly a fast mover.

And maybe that’s why it took so much interest in Tom’s truck.

For an entire five minutes while we were on the phone, the skunk simply circled around the vehicle smelling the tires as it went. Meanwhile Tom’s hawk was going nuts hoping to get a crack at the skunk – for the record, something I was very much in support of.

Unfortunately, Tom could not be swayed.

Listening to the encounter play out over the phone was high drama and better than any podcast I have recently heard.

Beneath his truck was basically a ticking biological time bomb, otherwise known as a three legged skunk.

Presumably, because of its predicament, it had a hairpin trigger too.

“What are you going to do?” I asked.

“I’ll just sit here quietly hoping it will move on without spraying my vehicle,” he said.

It turned out that’s exactly what happened, despite the fact that I told Tom I was really bored from social isolation and double-dared him to hit the horn.

He did not. But the encounter reminded me of my favourite type of skunk – the one that is far away. Frankly, there is no better species of skunk than this.

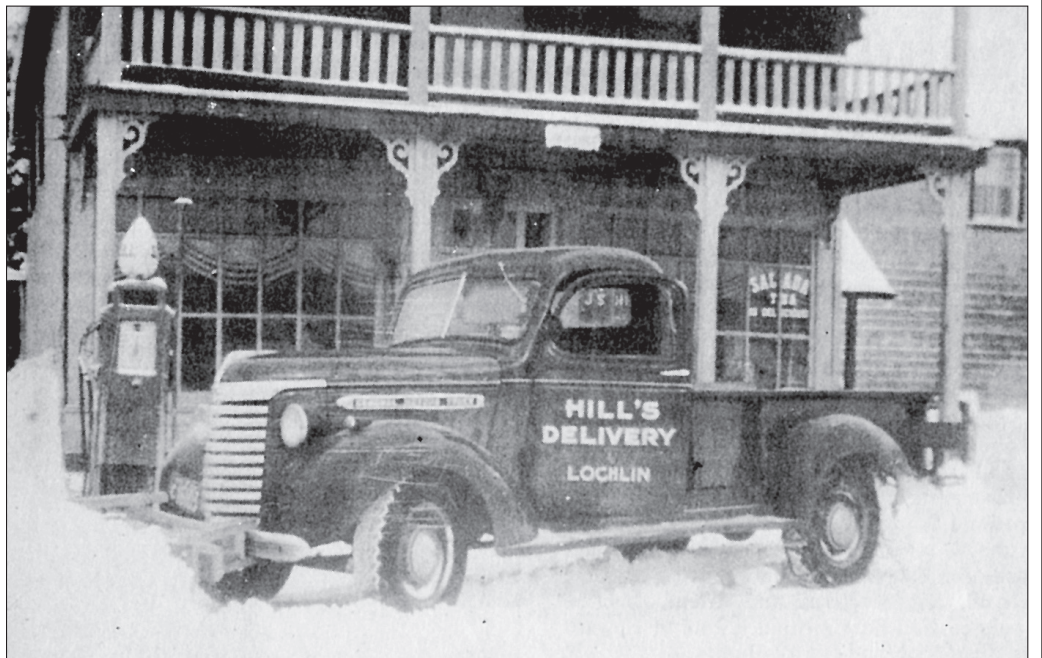
That’s because, for those who do not know, there are three stages to human-skunk interactions.

The first stage is the encounter. This is when both the skunk and the human first lay eyes on each other. No harm is done. No pungent odours are released.

The second stage is what we enthusiasts call an incident. This is when pungent odours are deployed into the air – in the vast majority of cases solely from the skunk.

The third stage is what is known as the separation phase. It describes how the victim and their spouse sleep over the next week or two.

This morning, Tom won the encounter. As for the skunk, it never had a leg to stand on.



## pic of the past

**D**uring the 1930s and ‘40s the Lochlin general store was owned and operated by Harold Hill. The truck driven by Archie Brown was used to deliver groceries to customers in the surrounding area, and also served as a snow plow.

## letters to the editor

# LTC fixes long time coming

To the Editor,

I thought your editorial “Investing in LTC workers” was entirely thoughtful and right on point.

Before I retired I was a national representative for 27 years for the Canadian Auto Workers and then Unifor. Most of my job was negotiating contracts and some of my responsibility was negotiating contracts for employees working in nursing homes, retirement homes and hospitals. I have been retired for 14 years now but nothing has changed.

The government and other bodies are claiming that they didn’t know that long-term care workplaces were broken. This is not true! When I retired we still could not break through the cycle of part-time workers working three jobs to make a living because the employers would not pay a living wage and benefits. Furthermore, privately owned nursing homes have been understaffed for years. I dealt with situations such as one staff person on at night for 72 residents!

The cycle of poverty and shame is not new and we tried to change this knowing that the people we were representing were completely dedicated to the people they were looking after. I have watched for the past weeks so many politicians saying they didn’t know what was happening in long-term care and PSWs that provide in-home services. Politicians and employers have had the opportunity to change this and no one would step up to the plate.

One has to wonder if this would be the same if the majority of the staff were men. I can only hope that now that the whole world knows the way these workers are treated something will be done to make sure the workers are properly compensated and allowed to work safely with proper protective equipment.

No group of workers is more dedicated to their patients than those on the front line of this pandemic and they deserve better.

Marilynne Lesperance  
Minden

# Homage to hairdressers

To the Editor,

In these uncertain times, with daily reports most dire and upsetting, it is important to try and maintain a sense of balance. The accompanying “song” was my attempt to add a bit of levity to a condition which affects everyone. Sung to the tune of “Do your ears hang low?” – an old camp song. Lyrics by Cheryl Cohoon.

*A Homage to Barbers and Hairdressers*

Does your hair hang low,  
Is it flying to and fro?  
Can you style it in a bun?  
Can you tie it in a bow?  
Can you toss it over your shoulder?  
Does white hair make you look older?  
Does your hair...hang...low?  
Are your nose-hairs getting longer?  
Are your eyebrows getting stronger?  
Is it sprouting from your ears  
And impacting how you hear?  
Are the whiskers on your face

Being braided into lace?  
Is your hair...too...long?  
Has your styling gone askew,  
And you’re wondering what to do?  
Dare you try your own “self-trim”?  
Results are likely to be grim!  
Are you longing to be “tinted,”  
Pampered, gelled, blown-dry and coiffed?  
Has your style...gone...“off”?  
When you look into the mirror  
Are you startled with a fright?  
Confronted with this image, think,  
“My God! I look a sight!”  
Take some comfort now, in knowing  
In this boat you’re not alone,  
And be grateful for this admonition,  
“Just...stay...home!”

With thanks to all our front line workers, who keep us healthy – body, mind and spirit.

Cheryl Cohoon  
Haliburton



# Garden group digging their conservation win

JENN WATT

Editor

Efforts to improve the landscape around Silver Beach condominiums has landed a committee of residents the honour of being the first recipients of the Lake Kashagawigamog Organization's Conservation Award.

The Silver Beach Stewardship Committee, consisting of about 11 members, are being recognized for their five-year plan to cultivate a series of gardens around the property using native, pollinator, and edible plants.

John Sheard, a member of the conservation award committee, said the Silver Beach project checked off all the boxes and offered an example of projects that contribute to the wider environmental health of the lake.

"They had a great submission and we marked it according to criteria, maybe 25 or 30 aspects of what we were looking for in a submission and pictures, and how much they involved their community, their larger community and their particular Silver Beach community," he said.

Mary-Lou Gerstl is part of the Silver Beach Stewardship Committee and said they were thrilled to be selected.

The committee formed about a year ago and brought the idea of investing in gardens to the condominium board, she said, which lent its support to the project. The Haliburton County Master Gardeners were consulted, and they provided tips on how best to go about planting the native vegetation.

"We met with them first and then we sat down and they had some great suggestions, which we will follow of course," Gerstl said.

Three Hugel beds were planted by the clubhouse first. Hugel beds are raised garden beds built on discarded wood, which rots and enriches the soil, creating air pockets and warming the ground.

Interviewed on Friday, Gerstl said the group was planting three dwarf apple trees on the property that day, as part of their larger plan of offering an array of edible vegetation for the people of Silver Beach and the fauna as well.

"We are well aware that the deer will think they've died and gone to heaven," Gerstl laughed. "That's OK too. Everybody's got to eat."

Another item in the five-year plan is to put in a large community garden.

Gerstl said the project had been a positive experience



Volunteers work to create a new garden bed at the Silver Beach condominiums. From left, Wendy Miller, Peter Oyler and Marilyn Whittaker. The group's efforts were rewarded when they were given the Lake Kashagawigamog Organization's Conservation Award. /Photo submitted



Members of the Silver Beach condo community begin digging their new gardens. From left, Cliff Ottaway, Mary-Lou Gerstl, Vickie Tranter, Peter Oyler and Haden Heathcock. /Photo submitted

for everyone and, before the pandemic required physical distancing, brought an opportunity for neighbours to socialize while improving the immediate environment.

"We have a plant day and maybe have a barbecue lunch after or get-together, or have a drink after. It's just a great community and just another opportunity for us to all get together and have fun," she said.

As part of the group's win, they receive \$100, a free LKO membership, a painted Lake Kashagawigamog paddle by cottager Lori DaRosa and a CD by Sheard, who is a world-renowned pianist and was music director for Vinyl Café for nearly a decade. He most recently performed in Haliburton in September of 2019 with his sold-out Beatles tribute show.

The award committee consists of Sheard, Wendy Hampson and Kathleen Conlan. Sheard said the initial idea of the award came from Conlan, who is a marine biologist.

The committee is taking nominations for next year's award. Find more information online at [www.lko.ca/lko-conservation-award](http://www.lko.ca/lko-conservation-award).

Those interested in naturalizing their shorelines or who have gardening questions can contact the Haliburton County Master Gardeners at [www.haliburtonmastergardeners.ca](http://www.haliburtonmastergardeners.ca).



Above, a special display greeted Helen Gardner on her birthday earlier this month, courtesy of her family members, who affixed the letters (backwards) and images from the outside of her home.

## Special birthday surprise

Right, David and Sylvie Gardner put up a special birthday message for David's mother, Helen, on her window earlier this month. Helen said she thought it was an imaginative way to celebrate her birthday while still observing physical distancing recommendations. /Submitted





# Highlands East council meets virtually

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

*The following are brief reports of items discussed during an April 21 special meeting of Highlands East council.*

Almost 20 viewers watched a live-streamed meeting of council on April 21, as Highlands East councillors met virtually by phone, broadcasting the online meeting on YouTube.

"Because the municipal office and all facilities are closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this special meeting of council will be taking place virtually with councillors and staff using videoconferencing software," reads the municipality's website.

Mayor Dave Burton thanked municipal staff and the IT department for setting up the possibility of a virtual meeting.

"Most of the technology and training transpired through the county IT department," Burton told the *Echo*. "IT met with the clerks and then held meetings with some staff to provide training. Staff provided the necessary information to council. It was a team effort."

While county council, which also met last week, opted for a video discussion in which councillors broadcast both video of themselves alongside audio to participate, the meeting in Highlands East was conducted using Zoom through a conference call on phone, with a visual of the meeting agenda and related reports.

"Internet connection was the main reason for the phone-in meeting," said Burton. "Not everyone has high speed in our area." Burton also thanked councillors, who each took part remotely in the meeting, which lasted just more than half an hour.

"I feel it went excellent," Burton later told the *Echo*. "There were a few glitches, but under the circumstances, it went well. Stating this, we will be glad when we all can meet together."

A future meeting has not yet been scheduled.

## Bylaw amendment allows for emergency meeting measures

Council approved an amendment to the municipal procedural bylaw under Bill 187, the Municipal Emergency Measures Act 2020, which was passed by the province in an emergency sitting on March 19 amending the Municipal Act, 2001, to allow for members of council, local boards and committees to participate electronically in open and closed meetings, and be counted toward quorum during emergencies. Council also approved the ability to form an emergency governance committee to allow for governance continuity if three members are not able to participate in a meeting for valid reasons.

"This committee would only be effective for the duration of an emergency and appointed by seniority," reads a report by

clerk Robyn Rogers.

## Municipal staff working through pandemic

A state of emergency was declared in Highlands East on March 19, two days after a state of emergency was declared by the province. Shannon Hunter, Highlands East CAO/treasurer told council "the municipality has had to plan, create and implement policies and procedures to adjust to an evolving landscape in order to provide essential services in a safe manner for everyone," which has included the closure of recreation facilities and non-essential businesses, maintaining safe distancing protocols and a provincial fire ban.

"In addition to these changes, the municipality has had to make difficult decisions to assist residents and to keep our community safe such as deferring penalties on taxes, not opening the information centre and cancelling programs," said Hunter.

"Even though facilities are closed to the public, operations have continued," she said. "Disinfecting, business continuity and working from home protocols have been implemented for all departments. Staff continue to be creative in order to achieve work expectations."

According to Hunter, the municipality's administration staff have been working as part of the emergency management operations centre providing a COVID-19 pandemic response that includes meeting

preparation, drafting policies, updates to social media and media releases and undergoing training to hold virtual council meetings. Payroll functions, final grant reporting submissions, and work toward a year-end audit as well as additional duties and other daily admin and finance jobs has continued.

The municipality's bylaw enforcement officers are able to enforce orders under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, but so far calls to the department have been minimal. Staff have mailed letters to campground and trailer park owners, noting they are to remain closed at this time.

Weekly training is cancelled for the fire department, with the fire chief's focus on procedures for dealing with the COVID-19 virus and securing proper personal protective equipment.

"There is some discussion regarding online training should this continue for the long term," said Hunter's report. "However we have not moved forward with anything yet. The fire chief feels it is still too early to commit to additional ways of training at this point."

The roads department was self-isolated for 14 days "due to potential COVID-19 exposure," and upon returning to work has been continuing operations, including removing snowplow equipment, and planning for sweeping.

"While we have had an easy spring, we have had a half dozen culverts wash out due to frost heaving them out of the road," reads Hunter's report.

## Ontario extends provincial park closure to May 31

Provincial parks and conservation reserves will be closed for the entirety of the month of May as a precaution against the spread of the coronavirus.

On Sunday, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health Christine Elliott and Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Jeff Yurek made an announcement that the closure would extend to May 31.

"We understand this extension may impact many Ontarians' plans during the month of May. However, the health and well-being of Ontarians is our government's number one priority," they said in a statement.

Car camping, backcountry camping, roofed accommodations, day use opportunities, access points and all public buildings are all included in the closure. Reservations for that period of time are automatically cancelled and customers

will receive a full refund. Those who want to change or cancel other 2020 camping reservations can do so penalty-free.

More information can be found at OntarioParks.com.

Municipal recreational venues are also closed and have been since a provincial order was issued March 31.

Boat launches in Haliburton County remain open.

The County of Haliburton closed the Rail Trail to motorized users, however, it is open for exercise and to get fresh air. On Monday, the county tweeted: "While we encourage outdoor exercise, we continue to ask for physical distancing while using the trail. These measures will remain in place until at least May 31st at which time use of the trail will be reassessed."

Jenn Watt, Staff

## Wildlife in your backyard



Belinda Gallagher writes: "No social distancing here."

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# Stuart Baker Elementary School

## Learn@Home program


Mrs. Bain – Grade 2/3 class



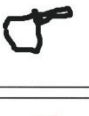
Jacob Bateman, working hard on one of his assignments with support from his dad, Mitch Bateman (currently the family is calling him Professor Daddio).

How To Make Tomato Soup


By: Jacob B




1. First, open the can of soup.



2. Then, pour the soup in a pot.




3. Third, add milk to the pot.




4. Last, wait until the soup boils. Now we can eat it.

How to make a cold meat sandwich


By: Jackson




1. Get bread or a bun and put mayo or mustard on it



2. Put the meat that you like on



3. Put any veggie toppings that you like on it with sub sauce



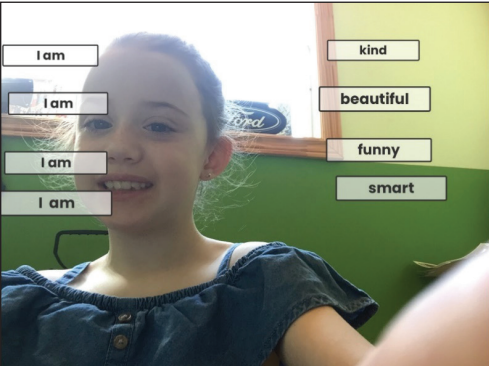
4. Fold your bun over or put the top peice of bread on and have a big bite.



Ava Scheffee created a poster thanking essential workers in our community.



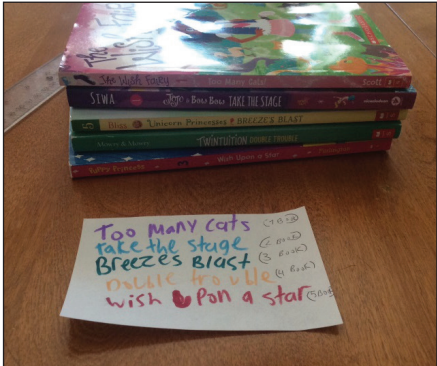
Jaxon Hurd completing a daily physical activity challenge.



'I Am Poem' by Aley Jones.



Brooke Gooley working on "The Money Jar" math assignment.



Book Spine Poem written by Reese Wood.

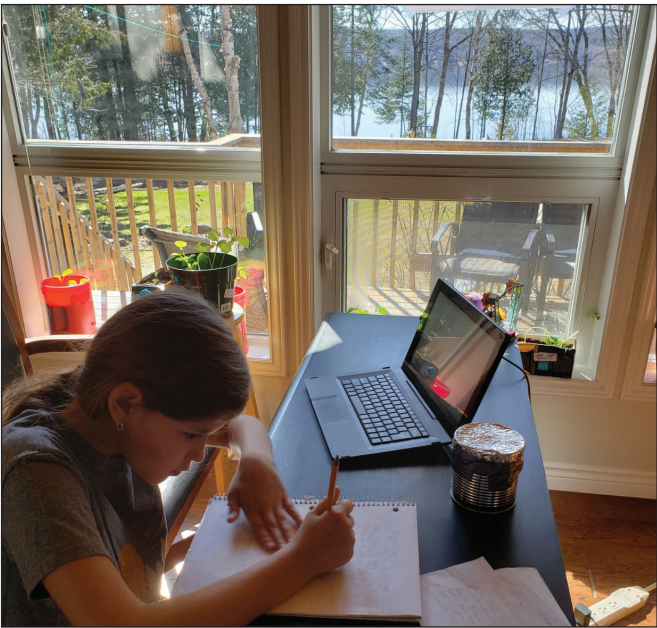
Ms. Alleway - Grade 2/3 class

Students from Ms. Alleway's class have been engaged in many literacy, math and outdoor activities.

A "List Poem"

I went to the doctor.  
He x-rayed my head.  
He stared for a moment, and here's what he said:  
You've got bugs and slugs  
And ants in your head.  
You've got whales and snails,  
And puppy dog tails.  
The good news, at least you shouldn't feel pain.  
From what I can see here, you don't have a brain!

By Nathan Somers



Julia Lafferty's new classroom has a beautiful view.



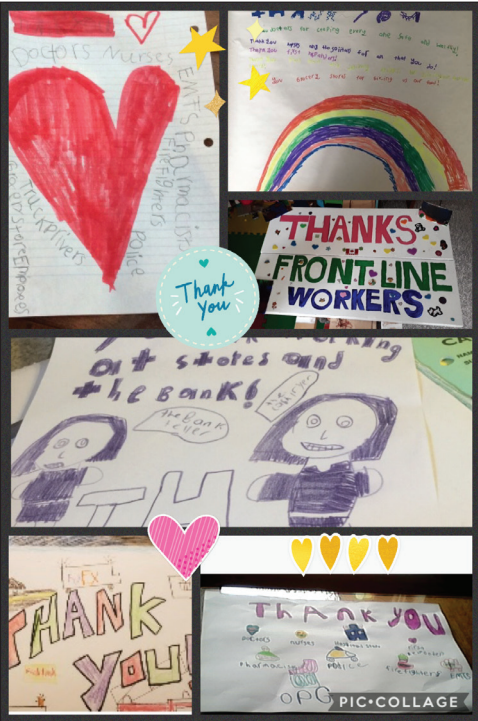
During a scavenger hunt, Michael Sedgwick found a stick that was about one metre long.



Grayson Clark's book spine poetry.



Grayson Clark cuddles with a furry friend while making tin-foil creations.



Messages of gratitude to all essential workers.



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# Social Distancing will be good for my garden: cutting down the grasses

Part six in a series of garden tasks we can complete while practicing social distancing

LIKE MANY FOLKS, I have been reconnecting with friends and relatives around the globe during this pandemic – checking in on health, safety and sanity. One such contact is an old high school friend who I

“located” again when my mother passed away in 2014. Debbie lives about 40 miles northwest of Boston, Massachusetts on the New Hampshire border.

I mention this because it turns out she, too, is an avid gardener and the climate where she lives is almost identical to that of Haliburton. In sharing plant stories the other day, Deb asked me if she should cut down the ornamental grasses in her yard.

Regular readers know that I adore ornamental grasses and the inquiry arrived as I began my own spring cleanup. (Please note that I do *not* consider lawn an ornamental grass.)

The short answer is yes, you should cut them back. All of the above-ground growth of most species is dead this time of year. In nature, snow, rain, rodents and mammals knock grasses back. However, in our gardens, we prefer a tidier look than flattened scruff and some varieties have very strong stems that remain upright for months. Cutting back the dead foliage will also make room for new growth.

Ornamental grasses can be divided loosely into three groups and each group has its own care routine.

1. Cold season grasses. Primarily short woodland grasses, these are either evergreen or start growth early when the days are cool. The group includes native

sedges (*Carex* sp.), blue oat grass, fescue, hair grass some Asian species like Hakone grass. They need only a light trim with sharp scissors. Grab the clump like you would a ponytail and nip off the dead ends.

2. Warm season grasses – under one metre. This group includes a couple of wonderful North American natives – little blue stem and prairie dropseed. The ponytail method works or just a straight cut at 5 to 10 cm.

3. Warm season grasses – over one metre. I separate this group because it includes not only nice native grasses like big blue stem, Northern sea oats and switch grass but also the non-native maiden grasses (*Miscanthus* sp.). Overall, the native grasses can be cut down to 20 to 25 cm with sharp scissors or pruners.

Maiden grasses, (sometimes called Eulalie) need more attention, actually more protection – for the gardener, not the grass! The individual blades of these grasses are extremely sharp. Wear gloves! Did you hear me? Wear gloves! I have seen hospitalization for deep slices to hands and fingers. Use pruners or loppers to cut down to 20 or 30 cm.

One final hint – wrap a bungee cord or two around the whole clump before cutting to keep the bits from blowing all over your nicely cleaned garden.

Crossword brought to you by

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1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10				
11					12						13	14	15	
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60					61	62					63			
			64								65			

- CLUES ACROSS
- 1. Curved symmetrical structure
  - 5. One's partner in marriage
  - 11. Male admirer
  - 12. Spend in a period of dormancy
  - 16. Popular Easter meal
  - 17. Doc
  - 18. Bearing a heavy load
  - 19. Gratitude
  - 24. The Mount Rushmore State
  - 25. Driving
  - 26. Girl
  - 27. British thermal unit
  - 28. Makes a mistake
  - 29. A defined length of time
  - 30. Lions do it
  - 31. Large quantities
  - 33. Become less intense
  - 34. Famed peninsula
  - 38. Emerges
  - 39. Rare Hawaiian geese
  - 40. Dance style
  - 43. Drove
  - 44. Measures speed of an engine (abbr.)
  - 45. Yankee hero Bucky
  - 49. Midway between west and northwest
  - 50. Monetary unit of Samoa

- 51. Makes clothing
  - 53. Spielberg's alien
  - 54. Agreeable to the taste
  - 56. Injury treatment protocol
  - 58. Cools your house
  - 59. Imaginary line
  - 60. New convert
  - 63. Some do it to their windows
  - 64. Wore away
  - 65. Work units
- CLUES DOWN
- 1. Remove body tissue
  - 2. Harvester
  - 3. Roadside living quarters
  - 4. Excessive self-confidence
  - 5. Lapp
  - 6. Bicycled
  - 7. Entrance to a passage
  - 8. Western U.S. state
  - 9. Grain towers
  - 10. "Westworld" actress
  - 13. Commercial
  - 14. One who left a will
  - 15. Makes it through
  - 20. Within (prefix)
  - 21. Sea patrol (abbr.)
  - 22. Cigarettes (slang)
  - 23. A doctrine
  - 27. Constrictor snakes
  - 29. Atomic #73
  - 30. Baseball stat
  - 31. Female sibling
  - 32. A soft gray metal (abbr.)
  - 33. Southern constellation
  - 34. Belgian city
  - 35. Go in again
  - 36. In a different, more positive way
  - 37. A place for sleeping
  - 38. Blood type
  - 40. Syrian news agency (abbr.)
  - 41. A salt or ester of acetic acid
  - 42. Millihenry
  - 44. Populous Israeli city
  - 45. Widen
  - 46. Magical potion
  - 47. Acknowledging
  - 48. Private romantic rendezvous
  - 50. Cavalry sword
  - 51. Terabyte
  - 52. Artificial intelligence
  - 54. Bullfighting maneuver
  - 55. Breezed through
  - 57. Santa says it three times
  - 61. \_\_\_ and behold
  - 62. 36 inches (abbr.)
- Answers on page 13

Garden



Belinda Gallagher

Musings



Above, this is the time of year to cut back the dead growth of ornamental grasses.

Left, native grass, prairie dropseed.





# Ask Wes

Answering common landfill questions.

Jenn W asks: "Where do I put my milk cartons?"

In the fridge! Joking aside, it's an excellent question. Milk cartons are one of the most misplaced items in the recycling stream. Milk cartons as well as juice boxes and other "polycoat" products go into the fibers/paper recycling bin. Please remember to rinse these items and remove straws, lids and other plastics.

While we are talking about paper, there are a few other commonly misplaced items. Toilet paper, tissues, and paper towels are not recyclable and belong with the regular household garbage. Paper/tin combination items like some ground coffee, frozen juice, and the potato chip tubes also belong in household garbage.

As always, please check your local municipality's website for more information, and if you're ever unsure about where to put an item, please ask your landfill attendant!

This is Wes saying: "No one can do it alone, but together we can change the world!"

Wes is the adopted gorilla who lives at the West Guilford landfill. He says he loves it when people wave to him as he greets them at the gate.

Do you have a recycling question? Email it to [letters@haliburtonpress.com](mailto:letters@haliburtonpress.com) with the subject line: Ask Wes.



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**Clifford (CJ) Stoughton**

*In loving memory of  
CJ Stoughton  
Who passed away April 29th, 2014*

**Sadly missed, quietly remembered every day  
No longer in our life to share  
But in our hearts,  
you're always there.**

*Love Always,  
Myria & Family*



## 650 OBITUARIES

## 650 OBITUARIES

### Henrietta Marie Woods

(Better known as Rickie)

Passed away peacefully in her home on April 15th.

She was predeceased by her husband Robert Timothy with whom she enjoyed 42-stinking-years of a great love affair. She is survived by her four children Amanda, Dennis, Katie and Trevor, who will forever desperately miss her doting, general harassment, and 'life lessons'. She will be fondly remembered as 'grand-smother' by her four grandchildren, and her memory will survive through them when they realize you can also drink wine out of one her mugs just as easily as coffee or tea.




A celebration of life will be held at a future date – After Rickie fulfills her promise to get rid of this Covid crap for us. Until then - We all have to stay home, so drink a toast to her out of your favorite mug (see above).

In her final days, Mom requested that in lieu of flowers donations be made to the palliative care unit at the Haliburton hospital, or to your local library or YMCA

**ALWAYS REMEMBER**

**Simple words that mean so much.**



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## 650 OBITUARIES

## 650 OBITUARIES



### Ruth Ann Good (Dunlop)

August 13, 1919 - February 29, 2020

Ruth Ann Good (Dunlop) of Haliburton, most recently of Pembroke, passed away peacefully Saturday February 29, 2020 in her 101st year at Marianhill Long Term Care Home in Pembroke, Ontario. Ruth was predeceased by her husband Dr. Harry Good of Haliburton.

Loving mother of sons Dr. Brian Good (Helen) of Eganville, Dennis Good (Gale) of Mississauga, Michael Good (Irene) of Toronto and by daughter late Norah Broughton (Brent) of Ottawa. Sadly missed by her Grandchildren; Geoffery Good (Jane), Colleen Good (William), Keith Good (Jennifer), Jessica Good (Kris), Patrick Good, Grace Good, Jared Broughton, Neal Broughton, Matthew Broughton and her great-grandchildren; Scott, Joshua, Everton, Gracie, Claire, Thomas, James and Violet. Predeceased by her sister Elizabeth Dunlop of Vancouver, British Columbia.

A celebration of a life well lived will be held in the spring for family and friends with the date and time to be determined.

Tributes and condolences may be left online at [www.zohrfuneralhome.com](http://www.zohrfuneralhome.com)



### Lorna June Burtch

March 28, 1925 – April 22, 2020

It is with deep sadness that Linda and Nancy Burtch announce the passing of their beautiful mother, Lorna June Burtch (nee Ridout), on April 22, 2020, at the Isabel and Arthur Meighen Manor in Toronto. Born in Weston, Ontario, Lorna recently celebrated her 95th birthday. Married for 68 years to her beloved husband, the late Douglas Ashley Burtch, Lorna was cherished by all, especially by her daughters Linda and Nancy, sons-in-law Peter Elson and Michael Timmons, and her grandchildren Bradley and Marley. No less a part of the family to Aunt Lorna were her nieces and nephews, and the children of her many friends. A special thanks to Maria and Jennifer for making Lorna's days so much happier.

Lorna and Doug shared a love of family and friends and various travelling adventures. Lorna's friends were very precious, and were held close to her heart across many decades. Lorna loved her early work at CCM and later, as an insurance broker. In retirement, she was active in the Humbervale United Church community, and in both Weston and Haliburton as a hospital auxiliary volunteer. Lorna loved cottage life at Redstone Lake, playing golf, euchre, and curling. Lorna never lost her zest for life and always loved to sing and dance, and it is with a song in our hearts, that we celebrate her final journey. God Bless you, Mom and Lorna.

A memorial service will be held in celebration of Lorna's life at a future date. Please visit her Book of Memories at [www.wardfuneralhome.com](http://www.wardfuneralhome.com)



**INSIDE  
THIS  
ISSUE:****THIS WEEK****Fire Guts House**

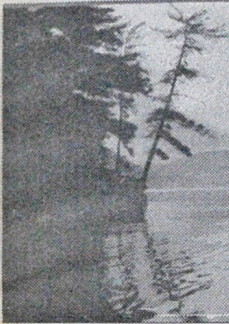
Young mother and child escape without injury... pg 3

**SPORTS****SEASON FINALE**

Glen Dart tournament ends hockey season... pg 13

**THIS WEEK****End of Contract**

Board cuts ties with Kinark in wake of budget cuts... see pg 20



# THE HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO

The Voice Of The Highlands Since 1882

TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 1995

Vol. 114, No. 9 • 36 PAGES

75 cents (incl. GST)

## School board feels less pain

Province caps funding cut at \$325,000

by PETER DOWNS  
Staff Reporter

After a month anguishing over how to absorb \$1.2-million in lost revenue without decimating the school system, Haliburton's board of education has been told by the province its funding cut will be only a quarter as deep.

Haliburton-Victoria MPP Chris Hodgson delivered the startling news before a standing-room only crowd of mainly parents, educators and students at a special school board meeting Tuesday evening in the high school's gym.

Hodgson told the gathering of about 350 that Education Minister John Snobelen had considered the devastating effects a massive funding cut would have dealt the board and decided to cap the decrease at 15 per cent of last year's \$2.16-million transfer payment.

The revised reduction translates to a loss of roughly \$325,000 and could mean many of the radical cost-cutting proposals the board has been looking at — such as layoffs, closing small schools and switching to a four-day school week — won't be necessary.

Trustees will also reconsider whether to go forward with all of the savings measures the board recently adopted when it trimmed \$625,000 from its preliminary budget.

"Chris Hodgson's announcement really gives us the option to restructure and downsize, but to do so in a way without gutting the system," said the board's relieved director, Brad Saunders. "I'm very appreciative of Mr. Hodgson's intervention on behalf of the kids of Haliburton County."

"I think it's something we can manage now rather than destroying the system," said

See BOARD'S page 6



**SPRING FLING:** Outside, people may have had their doubts, but inside the Dysart arena, there was no doubt that spring had indeed arrived. The Haliburton Figure Skating Club's presentation of Spring

Fling was a colourful, fast-paced and entertaining way to signal the end of one season and herald the beginning of another. This is the senior precision team, Silver Blades. More photos pages 25 and 26.

## Hospitals hope to be the funding exception

by MARTHA PERKINS  
Editor

When Ministry of Health officials look over the proposed budget for the Minden and Haliburton hospitals, it's hoped they won't notice that the hospitals want to spend \$700,000 more than they did last year.

On Friday afternoon, the Acting Health Services Board said there was no harm in trying to ensure the province would provide 24-hour service at both sites.

"What the board needs to decide is what we'll submit as a base budget and what services we want to include," said Chairman Paul Heffer. "The government needs to recognize that the configuration we're left with in our transition is insufficient..."

"Do we make the decision based on cutting services or do we submit the services that are our base requirement?"

The province created the board in early 1995 to oversee its capital building projects and to take over control of both local hospitals as well as Hyland Crest. While it's seen as a positive move to have more local control, it also means the board is losing the expertise of

St. Joseph's Health Centre, which is prepared to turn over ownership of the local hospitals for \$1. St. Joseph's has said the board can use some of its resources, such as accounting and human resources, as it settles into its new role, but as executive director Foster Loucks said, that help isn't always easy to get since St. Joe's is undergoing its own re-organization.

For several years, both the

Haliburton and Minden hospitals have run up deficits, which St. Joseph's has begrudgingly covered. "Now that we're in the position to assume the two small facilities," Heffer said, "we're making it more inefficient in our ability to save money... Those inefficiencies will not continue when we get our new facilities."

"It's worth a try in that you're trying to come up with a new package," said Ross Rabjohn,

county council's representative on the board.

The board's budget is divided between the Haliburton and Minden Hospitals. Without making any cuts, the Haliburton Hospital's projected deficit is \$400,000. If Minden Hospital hires doctors to staff the emergency department 24-hours a day, 365 days a year, its deficit

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## Minden MNR and Frost Centre to stay

by MARTHA PERKINS  
Editor

The Minden office of the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Frost Centre will remain in the county in the wake of the province's spending reductions.

However, as with all other government departments, there will be fewer people working there, says MPP Chris Hodgson, who is also the Minister of Natural Resources.

Yet at the same time, there will be more people working at the MNR's fire base in Haliburton this summer because other bases will be shut

down.

It's not yet known who will be losing their jobs. The MNR is reducing its staff from 5,000 full-time equivalents to 3,000 over the next two years. (The other quoted figure is 2,170 jobs, making it one of the hardest hit ministries.) Many MNR offices will be downsized as those neighbouring Minden's — Lindsay, Huntsville, Tweed — are moved to the new Ministry office in Peterborough. There will still be an MNR presence in those communities, but most jobs are being consolidated in the new building.

One of the issues in the recent OPSEU strike was "bumping"

procedures. The government had first offered workers the chance to bump one person with less seniority, but only within a 40 km radius. By strike's end, OPSEU had gained the right to have workers bump other workers for a maximum of three times, anywhere in the province.

Because of this, it will take a few weeks for all the bumps to settle out.

But Hodgson doesn't like to see the cuts as jobs being lost. "It's not like these jobs won't exist any more. They'll be done by the private sector" and through such things as retire-

See FROST page 4

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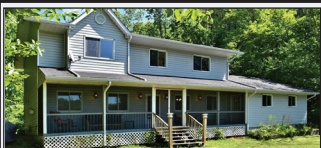
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Low maintenance 4 season cottage. 4 bdrm, 1 Bath. Open concept. Oversized dining area perfect for hosting. Large deck with glass railing. Lots of space for the whole family to stay. Additional living space in bunkie. Beautifully landscaped maintenance free property. Granite flower beds and stairway to water. Ample privacy and much more.

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#### WENONA LAKE \$662,000

Looking for a quiet, calm and peaceful four season cottage or waterfront home? Look no further. This 3 BR, 3 bath immaculate cottage sits on a private lot. Large open concept living, excellent for hosting family gatherings. 125ft of frtg with stunning western views.



#### HALIBURTON LAKE \$619,000

Meticulously cared for 3 BR, 2 bath year round home/cottage. Private lot perfect for children to play. 176 ft frtg. Beautiful sandy beach, dock and full sun. Bright open concept living. Fully finished lower level. Enjoy the stunning views of nature. Detached single garage.



#### KENNISIS LAKE \$569,000

It's all about the lot!! Enjoy the gorgeous sunsets from this west facing level lot. Amazing rock shoreline, deep water entry is great for the avid swimmers. 125 ft frontage and year round road. Looking for a fixer upper this one is for you! 3 bdrms 2 with balconies.



#### CARROLL ROAD \$559,500

Every nature lovers dream! 3 bdrm, 2 bath rustic log home perfectly situated on 92ac. Deck around the front & side to enjoy your lovely yard, gardens & forest. Complete and utter privacy! Open concept kitchen-dining finished with wood cabinetry and grand wood cookstove. Large 3 bay garage.



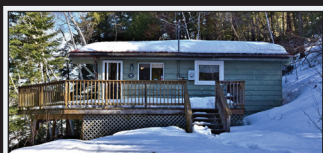
#### TWELVE MILE LAKE \$558,000

Offering a million-dollar view and spectacular sunsets! Bright open concept custom built 3 BR, 3 bath home. Floor to ceiling windows providing stunning lake views. Finished lower level. Cozy 3 season cedar screened in porch.



#### LONG LAKE \$499,900

Choose to build your dream cottage on this stunning property overlooking Long Lake or renovate the existing building which includes 2 BR and 1 full bath. Extensive 650' of water frontage. Private seasonal access and beautifully wooded 54+/- acres provides ample privacy.



#### MISKWABI LAKE \$486,900

Turnkey 3 bdrm, 4 season cottage. Open concept living space. Finished with pine walls and ceilings, gives the true cottage feel. Recently installed laminate flooring throughout, indoor sauna. This property has it all! Walk-out to wrap around deck. Bunkie for additional living space.



#### LITTLE GLAMOR LK \$439,000

4 season 3 bdrm, 1 bath. Open concept living provides ample space for the whole family. 3-season sun porch. Walk out to the lake front deck. Sloping to level lot. Hard sand bottom shoreline. Firepit at the water's edge. Start enjoying your family's vacation with this turnkey package!



#### NESBITT ROAD \$399,999

Recently renovated 4 bdrm, 2 bath home. Beautifully treed level lot. Many recent upgrades include new roof, fully renovated bathrooms, luxury vinyl flooring throughout, blown-in insulation and much more. Finished lower level, large deck and heated attached double car garage.



#### PERCY LAKE \$379,000

Great traditional family cottage! 4 Bdrm, 1 bath cottage has open concept living space finished w/ laminate flooring and wood interior boasts cottage charm. Large lakefront deck. Southern exposure. The list doesn't stop there, sauna building at waters edge, large sitting deck and dock.



#### AIRPORT ROAD \$259,000

We found the perfect starter or retirement home for you! 1.10-ac level lot surrounded by mature trees. Cozy 2-bdrm, 1 bath home with open concept kitchen and living space. In-floor radiant heat and recently installed vinyl flooring throughout. Attached oversized single insulated garage.



and to all  
who work  
each day  
to keep our  
communities  
strong

Thank  
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